



AssessNow

www.AssessNow.info

AssessNow is a web-based learning resource and information clearinghouse for public health staff working in community health assessment in Washington State.

The mission of **AssessNow** is to provide community health assessment practitioners with information, tools, resources, and a forum for dialog to improve the practice of assessment and the use of assessment data for public health decision-making.

The development of **AssessNow** began as a partnership between the University of Washington's Northwest Center for Public Health Practice (NWCPHP) and the Washington State Department of Health (DOH). The NWCPHP is leading the web design and hosting the site. DOH is responsible for content development.

The creation of **AssessNow** has been a dynamic, collaborative effort of local and state community health assessment staff. They identified the need for easily accessible information on assessment practice and remain as active partners in the on-going development of the clearinghouse.

Support for the development of **AssessNow** comes from the Assessment in Action (AIA) grant, a five year project funded by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to improve the practice of community health assessment in Washington State. To learn more about AIA, see <http://www.doh.wa.gov/EHSPHL/AIA/>.

The first phase of **AssessNow** development is now complete. Key elements of phase 1 include:

- Publications: Published community health assessment reports from DOH, LHJs and their community partners.
- Data Sources: Descriptions and links to local, state and national sources of data for community health assessment.
- Assessment Toolkit: Information, tools, and learning resources on the practice of community health assessment.

What are public health staff saying about AssessNow?

"To have all the state data and contact people in one place, what a deal."

"I wish I had had this when I started, they spoke a foreign language."

"Finding travel money for training is so hard, now I have help at my fingertips."

"A very exciting product."

"The website is logical, comprehensive and easy to move through."

"What a wonderful resource!"

The second phase of **AssessNow** development will begin this fall. This phase will include the creation of a password-protected section where members (Washington State public health staff) will be able to access:

- Technical assistance staff directory: a contact list of public health peers willing to provide consultation on assessment, searchable by topic.
- Templates and work samples: a library of survey instruments, fact sheet templates, PowerPoint presentations, and other work samples.
- Model approaches to assessment practice: a collection of community health assessment project descriptions along with information about what worked (and what didn't!).
- Peer mentoring program materials: resources to inform, educate and support local health staff who are participating (or are interested in participating) in peer mentoring.
- Training materials: modularized, topic-based curricula on assessment methods and models that will be available through multiple modalities.

We anticipate completing phase two of **AssessNow** development by August 2005.

The success of **AssessNow** depends on the active participation of our users. You can get involved in shaping the development of AssessNow by joining the User Group.

For more information about **AssessNow** or to send us your ideas and suggestions, contact Lila Muller at (360) 236-4247 or lila.muller@doh.wa.gov.

AssessNow User Group

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